

REMARKS:**General**

By the above amendment the Applicant has provided some written explanations that more clearly describe the nature of the invention, and more clearly show its inventive nature with respect to prior art. The amendment does not add new matter to the specification, because it only more explicitly describes what was graphically shown in the patent application.

In particular, the Applicant considers that the explanation provided in this amendment shows that the current patent application is patentable over Li et al (US 5,911,138). As described in Li et al, their patent is a method for organizing different queries, rather than a method for creating the structure of a query, which is the basis of the current patent application.

The crucial difference with Li et al is the following:

1. In the Li patent, different queries are organized in tree fashion, much in the same way as different folders are organized in tree fashion in the Windows Explorer in a computer.
2. However, in the current application, a single query (more precisely, the 'Where' part of a query) or any other calculation expression is decomposed and the internal constituents of the query (or the internal constituents of a general calculation expression) are shown in a tree fashion.

Another difference is the following:

1. The Li patent helps the user in organizing the different queries that might be created during a session (Abstract, line 8).
2. The current patent application helps the user in creating one (or more) of the queries, by allowing him/her to better manage the internal parts of the query.

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The Applicant would like to comment on the sixth paragraph of page 4 of the Office Action paragraph. Such paragraph read as follows:

and for said arboreal graphical representation none or more of its nodes show an intermediate subexpression (abstract, col. 4 lines 59-67 and col. 5 lines 1-24) where child node is "nodes show an intermediate subexpression" as claimed

As can be seen in Amendment A, such Amendment included several definitions to help describing the elements of the invention. In particular the definition of subexpression, which can be found in page 2 of the amendment, is "A SUBEXPRESSION is a fragment of the expression that has meaning in itself, is correctly formed, and is not the expression itself".

That is to say, a subexpression is a fragment of the expression. The nodes in the current patent applications are fragments of a calculation expression (for example, fragments of the WHERE part of a query).

However, in the Li patent the nodes are full queries themselves.. The key aspect of the current patent application is to distribute the fragments (subexpressions) of the expression, so that the user can more easily construct and manage the expression. However, the Li patent does not refer to fragments of query statements, but to full and different queries instead.

The Li patent solves an interesting problem as well, but is it a different invention than the one disclosed in the current patent application.

The following table shows some statements found in the Li patent that show that their patent's content is the management of different queries (as opposed to different fragments of queries).

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	STATEMENTS IN THE LI PATENT	PLACE
1	The query window displays the text of the most recently input query statement	Abstract: line 4
2	The graph window graphically displays the current results of the most recent query statement	Abstract: line 6
3	The history window presents the query statements and the results...	Abstract: line 8
4	In one preferred embodiment, the query statements and their results are graphically presented as a tree, wherein the query statements and query results are nodes, and each query statement result is a child of the query statement which was run to create it.	Abstract: line 10
5	The query window 101 contains the most recent query statement in the current query.	Col 4, lines 60-63
6	In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the history of the query is presented as a graphic representation resembling a tree in which all the query statements and their results are portrayed as nodes	Col 5, lines 3-7
7	Modifying the query statement results in changes in the graph window to reflect the new results for the modified query statement, i.e. the query results	Col 5, lines 8-10
8	A graphed result is the child of the query statement that was run to create it	Col 5, lines 17-18

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9	A modified query statement is the child of the query statement from which it was created	Col 5, lines 19-21
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The amendments also show the inventive nature of the current patent application over US Patent 6,263,328. As described in the amended text to the specification, a crucial difference between the current patent application and US Patent 6,263,328 is that the latter does not allow to access any part of the expression in two different parts. Because of that, the user does not have the possibility to navigate into the expression.

Actual amendments performed to the claims

As can be seen, only claims 1 and 19 have been amended. The following two modifications have been performed:

1. The new version of the claims removes the explicit references to the existence of intermediate expression.
2. The new version adds the constraint that at least a fragment of the expression must appear in two different nodes of the tree. In a way, this constraint already includes the previous condition about intermediate expressions. This constraint shows the inventive nature of the current patent application over Li et al and over US Patent 6,263,328.

Comparing with Li et al, it can be seen that the current patent application shows fragments of the expression in different nodes, while Li et al show different queries in different nodes.

Comparing with US Patent 6,263,328, it can be seen that the current patent application shows at least one part of the expression in more than one nodes, while US Patent 6,263,328 shows each part of the expression in only one node.

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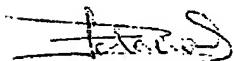
CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicant submit that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims define all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore they submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicant has amended the specification of this application so that they are proper, definite and define novel structure which is also unobvious. If, for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. §2173.02 and §707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully

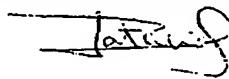


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